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IN THE CLAIMS:

On page 15, cancel "Patent claims" and substitute

--I CLAIM AS MY INVENTION:-- therefor.

Please cancel claims 1-10 and substitute the following claims therefor:

- 5 11. A method for coding information consisting of symbol sequences containing symbols which occur with different probabilities, comprising the steps of:
- mapping said symbols to binary code words, each having a plurality of bit positions; and
- 10 in said mapping, sorting said symbols dependent on their respective probability of occurrence, and allocating a natural code words to said symbols to obtain sorted symbols, and allocating a natural binary code to said sorted symbols.
12. A method as claimed in claim 11 wherein the step of sorting
- 15 said symbols comprises sorting a substantial proportion of said symbols, thereby obtaining a substantial proportion of sorted symbols, and comprising allocating said natural binary code to said substantial proportion of sorted symbols.
13. A method as claimed in claim 11 wherein the step of sorting
- 20 said symbols comprises sorting all of said symbols, and allocating said natural binary code to all of said sorted symbols.
14. A method as claimed in claim 11 wherein the step of allocating said natural binary code comprises:
- allocating a code word which exhibits a first binary value at all bit
- 25 positions to a symbol which occurs most frequently; and

allocating a code word which exhibits a second binary value at all positions to a symbol occurring most infrequently.

15. A method as claimed in claim 11 comprising producing said symbol sequences from a source encoding.

5 16. A method as claimed in claim 11 comprising interchanging bit positions of code words obtained from said mapping.

10 17. A method as claimed in claim 11 wherein said symbol sequences contain redundant information, and comprising decoding said natural binary code using said redundant information as a priori information for determining respective values of said bit positions.

18. A method as claimed in claim 11 wherein said symbol sequences contain redundant information, and comprising decoding said natural binary code using said redundant information as a posteriori information for determining respective values of said bit positions.

15 19. A method as claimed in claim 11 wherein said bit positions of said code words contain redundant information, and comprising decoding said natural binary code using said redundant information as a priori information for determining respective values of said bit positions.

20 20. A method as claimed in claim 11 wherein said bit positions of said code words contain redundant information, and comprising decoding said natural binary code using said redundant information as a posteriori information for determining respective values of said bit positions.

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